

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 05021 180459Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 L-03
SY-05 DODE-00 /044 W
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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9224
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
USMISSION USNATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, US, UR, OTRA
SUBJECT: EMBASSY PERSONNEL REFUSED TRAVEL TO KRASNOYE-NA-
VOLGE AND PLES

REF: MOSCOW 4167 (NOTAL)

1. MFA PROTOCOL OFFICER VACHNADZE CALLED TRAVEL OFFICER
MORNING OF MARCH 16 CONCERNING PROPOSED TRAVEL BY
EMBASSY PERSONNEL LEROY AND CAROL KRSIEAN. KRSIEANS
HAD SUBMITTED TRAVEL NOTE PROPOSED CAR TRIP WEEKEND OF
MARCH 18-20 ALONG ROUTE MOSCOW-ROSTOV-YAROSLAVL-KOSTROMA-
KRASNOYE-NA-VOLGE-PLES-SUZDAL-MOSCOW. VACHNADZE INFORMED
TRAVEL OFFICER THAT KRASNOYE-NA-VOLGE AND PLES WERE IN
HIS WORDS "EXCLUDED," AND THAT DIRECT ROAD TRAVEL
YAROSLAVL-KOSTROMA-SUZDAL WAS NOT PERMITTED. VACHNADZE
SAID KRSIEANS COULD DRIVE AS FAR AS YAROSLAVL, THEN TAKE
THE TRAIN TO KOSTROMA. WHEN TRAVEL OFFICER ASKED HOW
KRSIEANS COULD GET FROM KOSTROMA TO SUZDAL, VACHNADZE
REPLIED THAT THEY WOULD HAVE TO RETURN TO MOSCOW, THEN
TAKE THE VLADIMIR ROAD TO SUZDAL.
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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 05021 180459Z

2. VACHNADZE REFUSED TO AMPLIFY ON REASONS FOR CLOSURE
OF YAROSLAVL-KOSTROMA-IVANOVO-SUZDAL ROAD, OTHER THAN TO
SAY THAT IT, LIKE KRASNOYE-NA-VOLGE AND PLES, WAS
"EXCLUDED", WHICH WE ASSUME MEANS CLOSED TO FOREIGN
TRAVELERS.

3. KRSIEANS WERE UNABLE TO BOOK TRAIN PASSAGE TO KOSTROMA ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE, AND ENDED UP CANCELLING ENTIRE TRIP.

4. COMMENT: BOTH THE 1978 TRAVEL NOTE AND THE 1966 NOTE IT REPLACES RECOGNIZE KOSTROMA, KRASNOYE-NA-VOLGE AND PLES AS OPEN CITIES, AND THIS IS THE FIRST TIME WE HAVE HEARD OF RESTRICTIONS ON TRAVEL TO THEM. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS APPROPRIATE WASHINGTON RETALIATION. TOON

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

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